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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,543

Applicant(s)

NISHI ET AL.

Examiner

Sarvesh J. Nadkarni

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07/02/2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-7, 27, 28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :06/09/2005;
10/20/2004; 09/09/2004; 07/29/2004; 03/24/2004.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the communications filed on July 2, 2005 in regards to application filed March 24, 2004, Application Number: 10/807,543 (hereinafter referred to as "application"). The application was published on February 10, 2005, Publication Number: US 2005/0030518 A1. Page and line number references made in this action relate to the originally filed application, not the publication. Receipt is acknowledged of the information disclosure statements filed on June 9, 2005; October 10, 2004; September 09, 2004; July 27, 2004; and March 24, 2004.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Election/Restrictions

2. Claims 1-7, 27 and 28 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on July 2, 2007.
3. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II (claims 8-26) in the reply filed on July 2, 2007 is acknowledged.

Specification

4. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use. The specification lacks the bolded section below (section labeled (b)) and its contents. Appropriate action is required. See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. :

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.**
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2629

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakae et al, United States Patent Application Publication US 2004/0166829 A1 (hereinafter referred to as the "Nakae Publication") and further in view of Helms, United States Patent Number US 5,952, 992 B2 (hereinafter referred to as "Helms '992").

7. With regard to claim 8, the Nakae Publication clearly teaches **a portable information tool** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraphs [0032]-[0036], mobile communication terminal 1) **comprising: a first housing** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], subhousing 11) **and a second housing** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], subhousing 12) **coupled together through a hinge portion** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], hinge unit 23) **wherein the first housing includes a first display portion** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], main display unit 13) **and a second display portion** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], sub-display unit 21) **provided on different surfaces** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], sub-display unit 21 is provided on the outside surface the main display unit 13 is on the inside); **wherein the second housing includes an operation portion** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], operating unit 36); **wherein the first display portion and the operation portion are foldable so as to face each other** (see FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033]-[0035],

Art Unit: 2629

inner and outer surfaces); **and wherein the portable information tool comprises a photodetector** (see page 4, paragraph [0077]).

8. The Nakae Publication differs from the claimed invention in that the Nakae Publication does not fully teach that the photodetector includes **a plurality of detector elements connected in parallel**.

9. In the same field of endeavor, Helms '992 clearly teaches **a plurality of detector elements connected in parallel** (see column 4, lines 40-67, first photodetector 14' and second photodetector 410).

10. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have been motivated to incorporate the detecting elements as taught by Helms '992 into the device of the Nakae Publication because both are within the same field of endeavor, and furthermore because of the commonly understood benefits as taught by Helms '992, including automated lighting controls, conserved battery power, extended periods of use between battery charging, and a generally improved user-friendly application (see Helms '992 at column 2, lines 8-50).

11. With regard to claim 9, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8, wherein the photodetector is provided in the first housing** (see Nakae Publication FIG. 1C; further described at page 4, paragraphs [0077]-[0078]).

12. With regard to claim 10, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8, wherein the photodetector is provided in**

Art Unit: 2629

the second housing (see Nakae Publication FIG. 1C; further described at page 4, paragraphs [0077]-[0078]).

13. With regard to claim 12, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of detector elements include a first detector element and a second detector element** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67 describing a first photodetector 14' and a second photodetector 410; illustrated in FIG. 4); **wherein the first detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the first display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are opened** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67 further illustrated in FIG. 4) **and wherein the second detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the second display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67; it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the second detector is capable of detecting ambient light when apparatus is folded).

14. With regard to claim 15, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above), **wherein each of the first display portion and the second display portion is formed by a liquid crystal display device or an EL display device** (see Nakae Publication page 3, paragraph [0057]).

15. With regard to claim 16, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above), **wherein the first display portion and the second display portion are formed by a display device capable of emitting light from both surfaces** (see Nakae Publication page 3, paragraph [0057]).

16. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Koops et al., United States Patent Number US 6,504,143 B1 (hereinafter referred to as "Koops '143").

17. With regard to claim 11, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above).

18. The Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 differs from the claimed invention in that the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 does not fully teach **the photodetector is provided under operation buttons having light-transparent property of the operation portion.**

19. In the same field of endeavor, Koops '143 clearly teaches **wherein the photodetector is provided under operation buttons having light-transparent property of the operation portion** (see Koops '143, at column 4, lines 24-55, lenses 9 further illustrated in FIG. 1).

20. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have been motivated to incorporate the operation buttons as taught by Koops '143 into the device of Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 because all are within the same field of endeavor and furthermore, Koops '143 clearly improves selection of an operation button, a commonly shared goal within the art (see column 1, lines 33-67).

Art Unit: 2629

21. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 and further in view of Nakamura, United States Patent Number US 6,269, 256 B1 (hereinafter referred to as "Nakamura '256").

22. With regard to claim 13, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 further in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above), **wherein the plurality of detector elements include a first detector element and a second detector element** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67 describing a first photodetector 14' and a second photodetector 410; illustrated in FIG. 4); **wherein the first detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the first display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are opened** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67); **and the second detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the second display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67, capable of detecting ambient light when apparatus is folded).

23. However, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 differs from the claimed invention in that the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 does not fully teach **the first detector element detects the brilliance in the first display portion where the first housing and the second housing are folded**.

24. In the same field of endeavor, Nakamura '256 clearly teaches **the first detector element detects the brilliance in the first display portion where the first housing and the second housing are folded** (see Nakamura '256 describing a light-emitting and light detection portions 1 and 2 respectively further describing light detection folded at column 3, lines 20-64, further illustrated in FIGs. 2A and 2B).

Art Unit: 2629

25. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have been motivated to incorporate the light detection as taught by Nakamura '256 into the device of the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 because all are within the same field of endeavor, and additionally because Nakamura '256 clearly provides a method of optical detection to improve power consumption a commonly shared goal within the art (see Nakamura '256 at column 2, lines 36-42).

26. With regard to claim 14, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 and further in view of Nakamura '256 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 8** (see above), **wherein the plurality of detector elements include a first detector element, a second detector element** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67 describing a first photodetector 14' and a second photodetector 410; illustrated in FIG. 4) **and a third detector element** (see Nakamura '256 describing a light-emitting and light detection portions 1 and 2 respectively further describing light detection folded at column 3, lines 20-64, further illustrated in FIGs. 2A and 2B); **wherein the first detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the first display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are opened** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67); **and wherein the second detector element detects an intensity of illumination on a side of the second display portion** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67 capable of detecting illumination when folded) **and the third detector element detects a brilliance of the first display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded** (see Nakamura '256 describing a light-emitting and light detection portions 1 and 2 respectively further describing light detection folded at column 3,

Art Unit: 2629

lines 20-64, further illustrated in FIGs. 2A and 2B).

27. Claims 17, 18, 19, 22, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '922.

28. With regard to claim 17, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches a **portable information tool** (see Nakae Publication FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraphs [0032]-[0036], mobile communication terminal 1) **comprising: a first housing including a first display portion and a second display portion on different surfaces** (see Nakae Publication FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], subhousing 11, main display unit 13, sub-display unit 21) **and a second housing including an operation portion** (see Nakae Publication FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], subhousing 12, operating unit 36) **coupled together through a hinge portion** (see Nakae Publication FIGs. 1A, 1B and 1C, further described on page 2, paragraph [0033], hinge unit 24), **a first mean for detecting an intensity of illumination on a side of the first display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are opened** (see Helms '992 column 3, lines 1-9, and continued at lines 57-67 describing photodetector 14 further illustrated in FIG. 1) ; **a second mean for displaying by controlling a brilliance of the first display portion depending upon a result detected by the first mean** (see Helms '992, column 3, lines 18-67 and continued at column 4, lines 1-40, microprocessor 204a makes this determination; see additionally FIGs. 1 and 3); **a third mean for detecting an intensity of illumination on a side of the second display portion in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded** (see Helms '992 column 4, lines 40-67, describing second

Art Unit: 2629

photodetector 410; the device is shown as being folded in FIG. 4; and see Nakae Publication for the second display FIGs. 1A-C); **and a fourth mean for displaying by adjusting a brilliance of the second display portion depending upon a result detected by the third mean** (see Helms '992, column 4, lines 40-67 and continued at column 5, lines 1-30, microprocessor 204a makes this determination; see additionally FIGs. 1 and 3).

29. With regard to claim 18, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 17** (see above), **wherein the first mean and the third mean are provided in the first housing** (it is obvious matter of engineering design choice to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place the microprocessor as disclosed by Helms '992 in the first or second housing).

30. With regard to claim 19, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 17** (see above), **wherein the first mean and the third mean are provided in the second housing** (see claim 18, claim 19 is similarly analyzed and rejected under the same rationale as claim 18).

31. With regard to claim 22, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 **the portable information tool according to claim 17** (see above), **wherein each of the first display portion and the second display portion is formed by a liquid crystal display device or an EL display device** (see Nakae Publication page 3, paragraph [0057]).

32. With regard to claim 23, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 **the portable information tool according to claim 17** (see above), **wherein the first display portion and the second display portion are formed by a display device capable of emitting light from both surfaces** (see Nakae Publication page 3, paragraph [0057]).

Art Unit: 2629

33. With regard to claim 24, it is similarly analyzed as claim 17 above, and rejected under the same rationale (the method of displaying the foldable information tool would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made).

34. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Koops '143.

35. With regard to claim 20, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 17 (see above) the first mean and the third mean are provided under operation buttons** (see claim 18, it would be an obvious matter of engineering design choice to place the first and third means under operation buttons).

36. However, the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 differs from the claimed invention in that the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 does not fully teach **operation buttons having light-transparent property of the operation portion**.

37. In the same field of endeavor, Koops '143 clearly teaches **the first mean and the third mean are provided under operation buttons having light-transparent property of the operation portion** (see Koops '143 at column 4, lines 24-55, lenses 9 further illustrated in FIG. 1). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have been motivated to incorporate the operation buttons as taught by Koops '143 into the device of Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 because all are within the same field

Art Unit: 2629

of endeavor and furthermore, Koops '143 clearly improves selection of an operation button, a commonly shared goal within the art (see column 1, lines 33-67).

38. Claims 21, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Nakamura '256.

39. With regard to claim 21 the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 clearly teaches **the portable information tool according to claim 17** (see above).

40. The Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 differs from the claimed invention in that the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 does not fully teach **a fifth mean for making the first display portion display and detecting a brilliance thereof in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded; and a sixth mean for displaying by controlling the brilliance of the first display portion depending upon a result detected by the fifth mean and the result detected by the first mean.**

41. In the same field of endeavor, Nakamura '256 clearly teaches **a fifth mean for making the first display portion display and detecting a brilliance thereof in a state where the first housing and the second housing are folded** (see Nakamura '256 describing a light-emitting and light detection portions 1 and 2 respectively further describing light detection when folded at column 3, lines 20-64, further illustrated in FIGs. 2A and 2B and in FIG. 3); **and a sixth mean for displaying by controlling the brilliance of the first display portion depending upon a result detected by the fifth mean and the result detected by the first mean** (see Nakamura

Art Unit: 2629

'256, FIG. 4, the circuit control system 31 further described at column 4, lines 50-64 and in correlation with FIG. 3).

42. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have been motivated to incorporate the control and detection system as taught by Nakamura '256 into the device of the Nakae Publication in view of Helms '992 because all are within the same field of endeavor and furthermore because Nakamura '256 clearly provides a method of optical detection to improve power consumption, which is a commonly shared goal within the art (see Nakamura '256 at column 2, lines 36-42).

43. With regard to claim 25, it is similarly analyzed as claim 21 above and rejected under the same rationale (the method of displaying the foldable information tool would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made).

44. With regard to claim 26, it is similarly analyzed as claim 21 above and rejected under the same rationale (the method of displaying the foldable information tool would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarvesh J. Nadkarni whose telephone number is 571-270-1541. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00 M-Th EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amare Mengistu can be reached on 571-272-7674. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2629

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Sarvesh J. Nadkarni
Examiner – Art Unit 2629


AMARE MENGISTU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER